IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend Claims 1 - 20 as shown below.

1. (Currently amended) A method of executing ~~a~~ system management ~~command~~ commands on computer systems in a network, said computer systems running different system management software utilities having different command structures, said method comprising the steps of:

entering the ~~command~~ commands in a common interface, the commands including requests to start execution of the commands, to stop execution of the commands and to provide command execution progress status to the common interface, said common interface translating said ~~command~~ commands into the different command structures;

dispatching each translated command to ~~each of the~~ an appropriate computer system ~~systems~~; and

executing the dispatched command ~~on the computer systems~~.

2. (Currently amended) The method of Claim 1 wherein ~~said command is~~ all dispatched commands are executed concurrently.

3. (Currently amended) The method of Claim ~~2~~ 1 wherein ~~said command includes a command to provide command~~

~~execution progress status back to said common interface~~ the requests to stop execution and to provide command execution progress status are directed to one, a few or all the computer systems executing the commands.

4. (Currently amended) The method of Claim 3 wherein the computer systems on which the ~~command is~~ commands are to be executed are entered in groups.

5. (Currently) The method of Claim 4 wherein before ~~the~~ a command is dispatched to ~~the~~ a computer system ~~systems~~, the command interface pings the computer system ~~systems~~ to ascertain ~~their~~ its operability.

6. (Currently amended) A computer program product in a computer readable medium for executing ~~a~~ system management ~~command~~ commands on computer systems in a network, said computer systems running different system management software utilities having different command structures, said computer program product comprising:

code means for allowing the ~~command~~ commands to be entered in a common interface, the commands including requests to start execution of the commands, to stop execution of the commands and to provide command execution progress status, said common interface translating said ~~command~~ commands into the different command structures;

code means for dispatching each translated command to ~~each of the~~ an appropriate computer system ~~systems~~; and

code means for requesting that the dispatched command be executed ~~on the computer systems~~.

7. (Currently amended) The computer program product of Claim 6 wherein ~~said command is~~ all dispatched commands are executed concurrently.

8. (Currently amended) The computer program product of Claim ~~7~~ 6 wherein ~~said command includes a command to provide command execution progress status back to said common interface~~ the requests to stop execution and to provide command execution progress status are directed to one, a few or all the computer systems executing the command.

9. (Currently amended) The computer program product of Claim 8 wherein the computer systems on which the ~~command is~~ commands are to be executed are entered in groups.

10. (Currently amended) The computer program product of Claim 9 wherein before ~~the~~ a command is dispatched to ~~the~~ a computer system ~~systems~~, the command interface pings the computer system ~~systems~~ to ascertain ~~their~~ its operability.

11. (Currently amended) An apparatus for executing ~~a~~ system management ~~command~~ commands on computer systems in a network, said computer systems running different system management software utilities having different command structures, said apparatus comprising:

means for entering the ~~command~~ commands in a common interface, the commands including requests to start execution of the commands, to stop execution of the commands and to provide command execution progress status to the common interface, said common interface translating said ~~command~~ commands into the different command structures;

means for dispatching each translated command to ~~each of the~~ an appropriate computer system ~~systems~~; and

means for ~~requestin~~ requesting that the dispatched command be executed ~~on the computer systems~~.

12. (Currently amended) The apparatus of Claim 11 wherein ~~said command is~~ all dispatched commands are executed concurrently.

13. (Currently amended) The apparatus of Claim ~~12~~ 11 wherein ~~said command includes a command to provide command execution progress status back to said common interface~~ the requests to stop execution and to provide command execution progress status are directed

to one, a few or all the computer systems executing the commands.

14. (Currently amended) The apparatus of Claim 13 wherein the computer systems on which the ~~command is~~ commands are to be executed are entered in groups.

15. (Currently amended) The apparatus of Claim 14 wherein before ~~the~~ a command is dispatched to ~~the~~ a computer system ~~systems~~, the command interface pings the computer system ~~systems~~ to ascertain its ~~their~~ operability.

16. (Currently amended) A computer system for commanding that ~~a~~ system management ~~command~~ commands be executed on computer systems in a network, said computer systems running different system management software utilities having different command structures, said computer system comprising:

at least one memory device for storing the ~~command~~ commands; and

at least one processor, said processor for processing software code for allowing the ~~command~~ commands to be entered in a common interface, the commands including requests to start execution of the commands, to stop execution of the commands or to provide command execution progress status, and for translating said ~~command~~ commands into the different command

structures, for dispatching each translated command to ~~each of the~~ an appropriate computer system ~~systems~~ and for commanding that said dispatched command be executed ~~on the computer systems~~.

17. (Currently amended) The computer system of Claim 16 wherein said ~~command is~~ all dispatched commands are executed concurrently.

18. (Currently amended) The computer system of Claim ~~17~~ 16 wherein ~~said command includes a command to provide command execution progress status back to said common interface~~ the requests to stop execution and to provide command execution progress status are directed to one, a few or all the computer systems executing the commands.

19. (Currently amended) The computer system of Claim 18 wherein the computer systems on which the ~~command is~~ commands are to be executed are entered in groups.

20. (Currently amended) The computer system of Claim 19 wherein before ~~the~~ a command is dispatched to ~~the~~ a computer system ~~systems~~, the command interface pings the computer system ~~systems~~ to ascertain its ~~their~~ operability.